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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 1, 2003, at 4 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2003

(Legislative day of Monday, July 21, 2003)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God, who blesses us in ways we cannot number or describe, forgive us when we forget Your mercies. We thank You that in the shadow of Your wings we can find refuge. Thank You for filling our empty hands with good. Give us, today, a clearer vision of Your truth that we may do Your will.

Lord, help us to tear down the walls of mistrust and suspicion that divide us and build bridges of unity and co-operation. May we remember the power of courtesy and civility. May our actions reinforce our words. Help us to be steadfast and unmovable in our resolve to make a positive impact on our world. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will debate the cloture motion relating to the Pryor nomination until 10 a.m. Following the debate relating to the Pryor nomination, the Senate will proceed to the cloture vote. Therefore, the first vote in today's session will occur at approximately 10 a.m. Following the cloture vote, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, the Energy bill.

Last night I filed a cloture motion relative to the pending Energy legislation. As I said last night, that cloture motion was filed to give us a chance to finish the bill prior to the August recess. If we have any hope of passing a bill which would establish a national energy policy, then the Senate must invoke cloture. In the interim, I know the chairman will certainly work with Members toward consent agreements to allow consideration of any additional amendments. It is our hope to continue to process Senators' amendments prior to the cloture vote.

Let me reiterate again that our commitment remains on this side of the aisle to finish this Energy bill. Cloture votes on judicial nominees will not and should not detract us from the ultimate goal of concluding our work on this bill. I hope today that we can renew our efforts, have Members come forward with their amendments, debate those amendments, and then have the Senate work its will on the issues.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM H. PRYOR, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. shall be equally divided between the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH, and the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, for debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Pryor.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, on Tuesday a cloture motion was filed on the nomination of William Pryor for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for cloture on this nomination.

Why must we seek cloture on this nomination? Unfortunately, we all know the answer. A majority of Democratic Senators have developed a poor track record of denying a minority of Democratic Senators and the entire Republican majority, easily a majority of the Senate, the right to vote to confirm two of President Bush's outstanding Circuit Court nominees, Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen. One filibuster of an outstanding Federal circuit court nominee was bad

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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